

WE CLAIM:

1. A self centering endodontic file comprising:

5 a shank;

a tapered working portion of said shank terminating in a non cutting tip at a distal end of said shank;

a non-cutting governor collar formed on said shank adjacent to and distinct from said tapered working portion of said shank,  
10 said collar having a diameter at least as large as the largest diameter of said tapered working portion; and,

said governor collar being adapted to contact an entrance wall of a root canal of a tooth in which said file is to be used  
in order to help stabilize said file.

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2. The endodontic file of claim 1 in which the length of  
said collar is in the range of 1 to 2 mm.

20 3. The endodontic file of claim 2 in which said collar is  
adapted to contact the wall of said opening in at least two  
places.

25 4. The endodontic file of claim 3 in which said shank has a  
reduced diameter on a side of said collar away from said working  
portion to receive debris.

5. The endodontic file of claim 4 in which the diameter of said collar is greater than the largest diameter of said working portion.

5 6. The endodontic file of claim 1 in which said collar is circular in cross section.

7. The endodontic file of claim 1 in which said collar is tapered.

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8. The endodontic file of claim 7 in which said collar has an axis parallel to an axis of said file.

9. The endodontic file of claim 7 in which said collar is  
15 tilted.

10. The endodontic file of claim 4 in which the diameter of said collar is at least equal to the largest diameter of said working portion.

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11. The endodontic file of claim 10 in which said collar is cylindrical.

12. The endodontic file of claim 11 in which said collar is  
25 tilted.

13. The endodontic file of claim 1 wherein at least one axially extending facet is provided in a surface of said collar to permit transfer of debris from said tapered working portion to a collection region above said collar.

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14. The method of stabilizing an endodontic file in a root canal comprising the steps of:

inserting an endodontic file into said root canal, said file comprising a shank, a tapered working portion of said shank

10 terminating in a non cutting tip at a distal end of said shank,

a non-cutting governor collar formed on said shank adjacent to and distinct from said tapered working portion of said shank, said collar having a diameter at least as large as the largest diameter of said tapered working portion;

15 locating said endodontic file within said root canal such that said collar is in contact with sides of an opening into said root canal in at least two places; and

rotating said endodontic file within said root canal while maintaining contact between said collar and said sides of the  
20 opening into said root canal.

15. The method of claim 14 in which said non-cutting tip of said file is maintained in contact with a side wall of said root canal during cutting.

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16. A self centering endodontic file comprising:

a shank;

a tapered working portion of said shank terminating in a non cutting tip at a distal end of said shank;

a non-cutting governor collar formed on said shank adjacent 5 to and distinct from said tapered working portion of said shank, said collar having a diameter at least as great as the largest diameter of said tapered working portion and a length in the range of 1 to 2 mm; and

10 a receptacle behind said collar on a side opposite said working portion formed by a reduced diameter of said shank to receive debris.

17. A holder and organizer for endodontic files comprising:

a file-accommodating material carrier;  
15 said carrier having a plurality of inverted "Y" displays, one for each of small, medium, and large; each Y display comprising a plurality of overlapping Y's; and

said files being mounted in said holder through holes in 20 said Y's, said overlapping Y's for each of small, medium and large files allowing for files of different canal lengths.

18. The holder and organizer of claim 17 having a metric scale along an edge of said sheet.

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19. The holder and organizer of claim 17 further comprising

a top sheet covering said file-accommodating material carrier.

20. The holder and organizer of claim 17 wherein said file-accommodating material carrier is a substrate formed of a semi-  
5 rigid foam sponge block.

21. A set of endodontic files for treating and cleaning root canals of a tooth comprising:

a set of three files,

10 a first orifice enlarging file of said set of three files initially enlarging the root canal orifice of a root canal,

a second cleaning file of said set of three files cleaning the interior of a root canal to a pre-determined working length of the root canal, and,

15 a third shaping and finishing file of said set of three files applying a shaping and finishing to the root canal to said pre-determined working length.

22. The set of endodontic files as in Claim 21 further  
20 comprising each said file having indicia thereon indicating the identity and function of each said file.

23. The set of endodontic files as in Claim 21 wherein said indicia is provided on a top proximal surface of each said file.

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24. The set of files as in Claim 21 wherein a predetermined

taper of said first orifice enlarging file is about .05 mm and the length of an active cutting region of said first orifice enlarging file is about 8mm.

5        25. The set of files as in Claim 21 wherein a predetermined taper of said second cleaning file is about .04 mm and the length of an active cutting region of said second cleaning file is between about 8 and 10 mm.

10       26. The set of files as in Claim 21 wherein a predetermined taper of said third shaping and finishing file is about .06 mm and the length of an active cutting region of said third shaping and finishing file is about 14 to 16 mm.

15       27. The set of endodontic files as in Claim 21 wherein each said file is color coordinated by slanted, aligned bands at respective proximal non-cutting cylindrical ends of each said file, wherein further the position of each respective band upon the top, middle and lower portions of each said proximal non-  
20 cutting cylindrical ends of said respective files further defines the order of use of each file to be used after a predetermined determination that the respective widths of respective root canals is one of being small, medium or large.